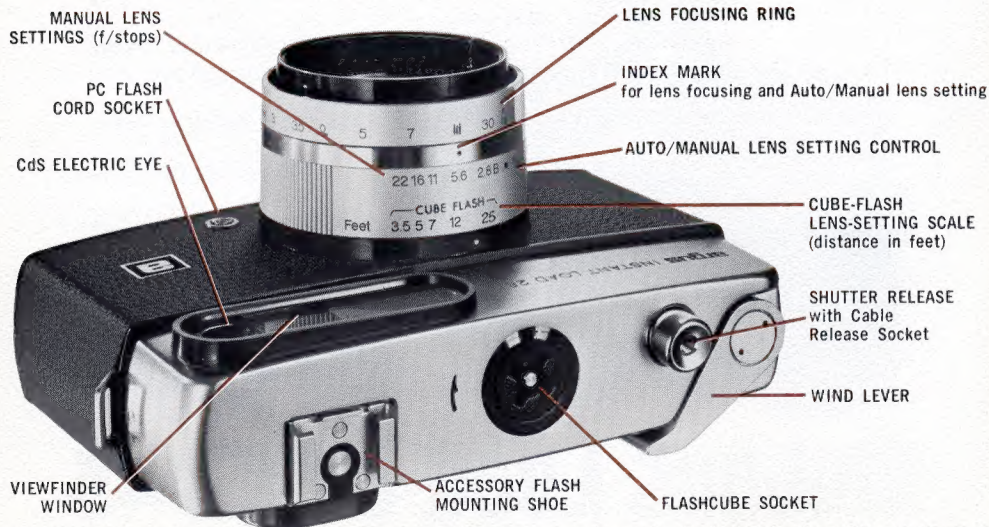- drop-in cartridge film loading
- CdS electric eye
- programmed shutter
- uses new flashcubes

argus
Instant Load 284

Functional Parts of the Argus Instant Load 284

MANUAL LENS SETTINGS (f/stops)

PC FLASH CORD SOCKET

CdS ELECTRIC EYE

LENS FOCUSING RING

INDEX MARK for lens focusing and Auto/Manual lens setting

AUTO/MANUAL LENS SETTING CONTROL

CUBE-FLASH LENS-SETTING SCALE (distance in feet)

SHUTTER RELEASE with Cable Release Socket

WIND LEVER

VIEWFINDER WINDOW

ACCESSORY FLASH MOUNTING SHOE

FLASHCUBE SOCKET

Minor changes in the appearance of this camera may not be included in these illustrations.

These are terms used throughout this book. It's best to familiarize yourself with them before you read the following pages. May we suggest you read this book over carefully? It contains simplified steps to perfect pictures as well as detailed information. Before you take pictures of a special event or go on a trip, try taking pictures both outdoors and with flash for practice.

FILM INDICATOR WINDOW

VIEWFINDER EYEPIECE

FLASHCUBE EJECTOR

NECK STRAP EYELET

TRIPOD SOCKET

CUBE-FLASH BATTERY COMPARTMENT

ELECTRIC-EYE BATTERY COMPARTMENT

CUBE-FLASH INDEX SETTING CONTROL

BACK COVER LATCH

2

4 easy steps... *for perfect outdoor pictures automatically*

NOTE: Be sure the AUTO/MANUAL LENS SETTING CONTROL is set to **AUTO**.

1 load camera

Open the hinged door and drop in the film cartridge, then close door. The cartridge automatically sets the electric eye for the type of film you are using.

2 wind film

Move the wind lever to right and let it return. Repeat until it locks (about six full strokes). Film is now at first picture, and **1** shows in film indicator window.

3 focus lens

Set lens focusing ring to estimated subject distance in feet, or to symbol appropriate for your subject (♙ close-ups, ♔♔♔ groups, or ♙ distant scenes).

4 take picture

Compose subject in viewfinder, press shutter release partially to check indicator for enough light, then take picture. Wind one full stroke for the next picture.

detailed instructions

More complete information on each of these steps will be found on the following pages. For information on taking FLASH PICTURES, see instructions on pages 11 and 12.

film to use

Film cartridges for your Argus Instant Load 284 are available almost everywhere. Ask for size 126 film, either color or black-and-white. Some popular films are listed below:

KODACHROME-X

EKTACHROME-X

HIGH SPEED EKTACHROME

SEARS COLOR SLIDE FILM
} for 20 color slides
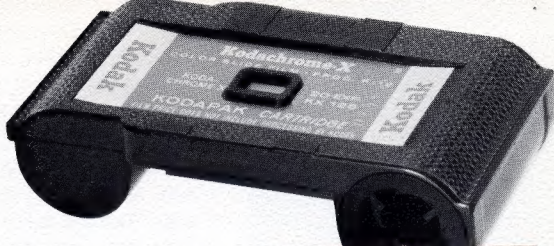
KODACOLOR-X
for 12 or 20 color prints

SEARS BLACK & WHITE PRINT FILM

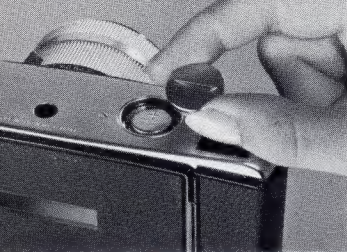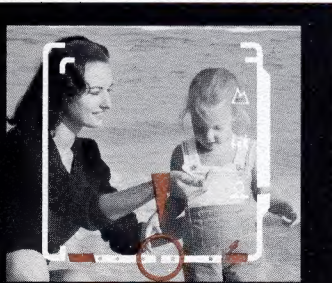**VERICHROME PAN**
} for 12 black & white prints

note:

Your dealer can make color prints from any color slide or color slides from Koda-color-X negatives at slight additional cost.

4

Your camera is equipped with a cadmium-sulfide (CdS) electric eye and battery-powered exposure control system. The system uses a 1.35-volt mercury battery installed in the round compartment on the camera bottom.
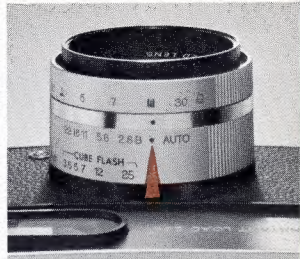
Instead of weakening slowly, this kind of battery generally fails almost immediately when exhausted. **To check your battery,** wind the film, set the lens setting control on AUTO (red dot), and point the camera at any brightly lighted scene. Look in the viewfinder to note the movement of the exposure indicator needle at the bottom as you lightly press on the shutter release (not far enough to take a picture). If the battery is good, the exposure indicator needle will move rapidly from the left and stop in the clear area of the scale. If the battery is exhausted, the needle will move out of sight, to the right. To conserve the battery, the system uses power only when the camera is wound. Replace when needed with a Mallory PX-13, Eveready EPX-13, Burgess HPX-13, or equivalent. Unscrew the coin-slotted compartment cap and replace battery with + side facing out (toward cap).

electric-eye battery

5

automatic exposures

The lens setting control must be set on AUTO (red dot) for automatically exposed pictures. The electric eye assures perfect exposure whenever daylight is sufficient for proper indication in the DataScope viewfinder (see page 7).

Turning the lens setting control away from AUTO disconnects the electric-eye control, and exposure is then determined by manual settings (see page 13). CHECK THIS CONTROL SETTING FOR PROPER POSITION BEFORE TAKING PICTURES.

Certain conditions may provide an undesirable electric-eye exposure (for example, a very dark subject in an extremely light background). With the camera set on AUTO, aim it at the subject at very close range, excluding the background from view. Looking through the viewfinder, depress the shutter release PARTIALLY until the exposure indicator needle is moved to position and stopped. Holding the release "set" this way, step back to picture-taking position, frame the scene in the viewfinder, and continue to depress the release to take the picture.

remember

Have the Auto/Manual Lens Setting Control on AUTO for automatically exposed pictures. Keep in mind that the exposure control is not ON until the film is wound.
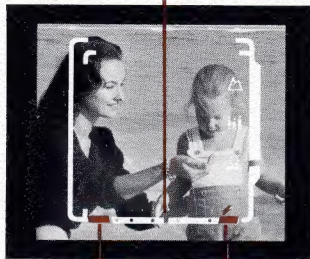
8

the DataScope viewfinder

The DataScope viewfinder shows at a glance the portion of the total scene that will be included in your picture (the area within the bright-line frame); the automatic lens and shutter-speed (needle position on bottom scale); and the focus setting (pointer position on vertical scale at right).

The 284's PROGRAMMED SHUTTER automatically sets the best combination of shutter speed and lens opening for every suitable light condition. The red areas at the ends of the bottom scale are warning zones for light conditions too bright or too dim for proper electric-eye exposure control. **Do not attempt automatic exposures unless the needle stops within the clear part of the scale** when you partially depress the shutter release.

The symbols along the right side of the bright-line frame correspond to the same symbols on the lens focusing ring. The focus pointer position in the viewfinder indi-
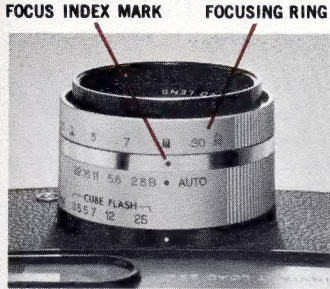
EXPOSURE INDICATOR NEEDLE

WARNING AREAS

cates the focus setting you have made on the ring.

Use your DataScope to insure perfect pictures — check for best framing, proper electric-eye exposure setting, and proper focus—every time you shoot.

FOR OUTDOOR PICTURES

. . . in bright sunlight, you can set the actual subject distance on the lens or use the symbols.

FOR FLASH PICTURES

. . . you must set the actual **camera-to-subject distance** (in feet) on the lens focusing ring (see pages 11 and 12).

focusing the lens

The precision 40mm f/2.8 lens provides the ultimate in sharpness and definition. For perfect pictures, set the focus with one of the following methods:

You can . . . **1** Turn the lens focusing ring so the actual or estimated camera-to-subject distance (in feet) is at the index mark.

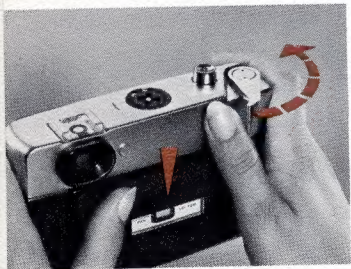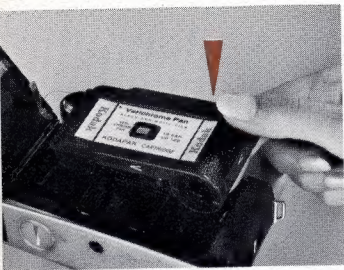or . . . **2** Turn the lens focusing ring so the symbol indicating the type of picture to be taken is opposite the index mark—
    ♟ for CLOSE-UPS (4 feet)
    ⛹ for GROUPS or INTERMEDIATE **SCENES (12 feet)**
    ⚪ for DISTANT SCENES (infinity)

or . . . **3** Use the GROUP symbol setting as a "universal focus" if subject is 8 to 30 feet from camera. USE THIS SETTING ONLY ON BRIGHT SUNNY DAYS.

8

loading the camera

Slide the back cover latch down and open the cover. Drop in the film cartridge (largest end toward latch). Be sure it seats properly and lies flat. Close the COVER, pressing it firmly until it snaps. Loading the camera automatically sets the exposure control system for the type of film. Move the wind lever repeatedly to the right until it locks (about 6 full strokes) to position film for the first picture. After each picture is taken, the exposure control system is turned OFF. For the next picture, move the wind lever through a FULL stroke to advance the film, cock the shutter, and turn the exposure control system ON. NEVER FORCE THE WIND LEVER. The film indicator window shows the exposure number you are on and type of film in the camera.

unloading

Before the back cover is opened, after the last picture, move the wind lever until it locks. Open the cover, remove the cartridge, and have it processed immediately.

compose and shoot!

Compose your subject within the bright-line viewfinder frame—just the way you want it to appear in the final picture. **Check the exposure indicator needle,** as you partially depress the shutter release, to be sure it stops in the clear area of the scale. If it stops in a red area, there is too little or too much light for proper exposure. If light is too dim, you may be able to take the picture with flash (see pages 11, 12). **Depress the shutter release slowly** to take the picture. If the shutter release will not go down, it is because the film is not wound for the next picture. Make it a practice to wind the film **just before** you take each picture.

Outdoor pictures will turn out best if the sun is behind you. Don't attempt pictures with the sun shining into the lens. In dim-light conditions the programmed shutter selects a slow speed; hold the camera steady and "squeeze" the shutter release. The automatic controls can be disconnected and manual settings used (see page 13).

FOCUS POINTER

The close-up lines in the viewfinder show the top and left-hand limits of pictures taken at 3 to 5 feet. Bottom and right-hand limits will extend an equal amount beyond the regular frame. Be sure to focus for actual camera-to-subject distance for close-ups, especially in dim light.

taking flash pictures

Your camera features a built-in system for flashcubes or any type of accessory flash unit, including electronic flash. **To install a flashcube,** fit the cube's mounting tabs into the camera socket recesses, and press down until the cube snaps into place. **The cube will automatically rotate each time you wind the film.** You can remove or reposition the cube at any time. Push in the flashcube eject button to remove a cube; rotate the cube manually by turning it CLOCKWISE only. With film wound and cube in place with good side forward, a lighted **FLASH READY** signal appears in the viewfinder when the shutter release is partially depressed.

To set the cube-flash index for the speed of the film you are using, move the control at the bottom of the lens mount to bring either ASA 160 or 64 opposite the index notch. (Use 64 position for **all** Instant Load cartridges except HIGH SPEED film rated ASA 160.) The manual lens setting for proper cube-flash exposure is determined by camera-to-subject distance. Set the estimated distance on the LENS FOCUSING RING opposite the RED DOT; then set the corresponding point on the CUBE-FLASH INDEX SETTING CONTROL opposite the WHITE DOT. Reset both controls when camera to subject distance changes.

The automatic exposure system is not used for flash and is disconnected whenever manual settings are used. Flash settings are determined by type of film, type of bulb and camera-to-subject distance. For guide-number calculations, the 284 shutter speed is 1/30 second at all manual lens settings (See instructions provided with your unit.)

Accessory flash units may be mounted on a bracket attached in the tripod socket or in the shoe on top of the camera. Electrical contacts are built into the camera's flash mounting shoe for units requiring that type of connection. A PC flash cord socket is provided on the front of the camera for units with flash cords. Accessory units do not use the flash batteries inside your camera.

NOTE THE LIMITS FOR CUBE-FLASH DISTANCES: for ASA 64 setting, from 3.5 to about 25 ft., for ASA 160 films, from 6 to about 45 ft. (first detent beyond 25). Settings at greater distance would move B or AUTO to red index dot, and exposure control for flash would be lost.

The cube-flash system is powered by two 1.5 volt batteries to be inserted in the compartment in the camera bottom. (Batteries are supplied with your camera inside the display box.) **To install flash batteries,** push the rectangular black compartment cover sideways (see arrow) and lift it open. Insert both batteries in the slots with $+$ sides toward center of camera. Close the cover and push it in to tuck it under the metal edge of the opening. When replacement batteries are needed, ask for two Mallory PX-825 or equivalent.

manual settings and time exposures

If you prefer not to use the camera's automatic exposure control system, the lens setting control can be turned off AUTO and manually set to any lens opening from f/2.8 to f/22 or to B for time exposures. Detents are provided at full-stop intervals (f/4 and f/8 are unmarked). When the control is set to any of the manual lens openings, the shutter is automatically set to 1/30 second. With the control set on B the shutter will remain open as long as the shutter release is held down, and the lens opening is always f/2.8. Manually controlled exposures require a light meter or some other exposure guide to determine proper lens settings. Your Argus dealer has books and pamphlets which can help you in this kind of photography.

specifications

LENS: 40mm f/2.8, precision optical glass, full focusing from 3 feet to infinity.

SHUTTER: Programmed type, automatically adjusts from 1/30 second to 1/600 second as required. B setting for time exposures.

FILM: Uses size 126 instant-load cartridges for color or black-and-white.

ELECTRIC EYE: CdS type, powered by single 1.35-volt mercury battery, automatically adjusts exposure up to and including ASA 160 films.

FLASH: Built-in battery-powered flashcube socket plus accessory flash shoe and PC flash cord socket.

CONSTRUCTION: Die-cast metal body, precision machined parts throughout. Size: 5¾" x 3" x 3⅝". Weight 22½ ounces.

check list... *make every shot a perfect picture!*

- For automatic exposures, be sure lens setting control is at AUTO (red dot); be sure exposure indicator needle stops in clear area (not in red warning zones) of viewfinder scale when shutter is partially depressed.

- Be sure lens focus ring is set to estimated camera-to-subject distance. Always check focus pointer in viewfinder. Estimate accurately for close-ups and dim light shots.

- For flashcube pictures, be sure cube-flash index (white dot) is set for your film speed; be sure lens focus ring AND cube-flash lens-setting scale are set on camera-to-subject distance.

- Be aware of near and far limits for flash-cubes; be sure CUBE-FLASH distance setting does not bring B or AUTO opposite red-dot index.

- Watch for "FLASH READY" signal in viewfinder; if signal does not appear when expected, check the flashcube for good side forward, or check for weak flash batteries.

Protect your camera from dust, heat, humidity, and hard knocks. If lens needs cleaning, blow dust off first, then use a soft brush or lens-cleaning tissue. Record your camera's serial number in a safe place for future reference. Refer to back page for service information.

Argus unconditional guarantee

Your Argus Instant Load **284** Camera is <u>unconditionally</u> guaranteed by the manufacturer to operate properly for a period of one year from the date of original purchase. If, during this period, your camera fails to operate for <u>any</u> reason, Argus, Incorporated, will restore it to operating condition at no charge to you. (This includes all parts and labor.)

This unconditional guarantee applies to the product itself. We regret that we are unable to assume liability for loss of film or for other expense or inconvenience.

This unconditional guarantee is valid only for the original retail purchaser and only if the product is returned prepaid, directly or through an Argus dealer, to the Customer Service Department, Argus, Incorporated, 2080 Lunt Avenue, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007, or one of their authorized service locations. The date and place of original purchase must be included, along with a description of the difficulties encountered.

Many apparent product difficulties are actually a matter of incorrect usage. It is always wise to see your Argus dealer before returning the product for servicing.

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT, ARGUS, INCORPORATED

MAIN OFFICE   2080 Lunt Avenue, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007
IN CANADA   Davis Drive East, Newmarket, Ontario

For the address of the service location nearest you which is authorized to repair Argus products under guarantee, contact your Argus dealer or write to the main office of the Customer Service Department.

service

For information about your camera, or for service or replacement parts, see your Argus dealer, authorized service location, or write to the main office of the Argus Customer Service Department (address listed at left).

When writing, be sure to mention you have the Argus Instant Load 284 Camera.

argus ®

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ARGUS CAMERAS OF CANADA, LTD.
Newmarket, Ontario